

The sustainable use of natural resources will be one of the key issues of the 21st century. The Faculty of Forest and Environmental Sciences is a centre of excellence for research and learning in the fields of environment and society contributing solutions to the issues surrounding the management of natural resources, in particular forested ecosystems. Based on innovative learning methods and research, the international M.Sc. courses **Environmental Governance** and **Forest Ecology and Management** educate students to become experts in issues concerned with the sustainable management of natural resources and the interactions between people and the environment.

- ▶ the comparative discussion of different analytical frameworks from social, economic and political science perspectives, and
- ▶ the provision of methodological knowledge and skills for the context-sensitive design and management of environmental governance processes.



## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the M.Sc. course **Environmental Governance** will be prepared for careers in

- ▶ international and national organisations and administrations focussing on sustainable development/sustainable use of resources,
- ▶ companies, which benefit economically from the sustainable use of natural resources,
- ▶ projects aimed at planning and implementing successful future development schemes,
- ▶ science and research dealing with development potentials and the sustainable use of natural resources.

At the same time, the programme offers further education to:

- ▶ leaders (politics, industry, administration) from transitional or developing countries in the field of development potentials and the sustainable use of natural resources,
- ▶ members of governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as banks and insurance companies, which deal with development potentials and the sustainable use of natural resources.

## M.Sc. Environmental Governance

The special feature of this innovative course is that it combines the fundamentals of the natural sciences with the complexities of the social sciences. Both play a key role in understanding the issues associated with the sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

**Environmental Governance** refers to the interrelations between the market economy, governments and civil society as crucial elements of sustainable development.

The M.Sc. course provides a thorough understanding of governance mechanisms in relation to the wise use and conservation of environmental resources. It focuses on:

- ▶ the development of a sound knowledge basis of the most pressing environmental issues and their underlying social causes,

## M.Sc. Forests Ecology and Management

This course will focus on the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources. In a world, where both the environmental conditions as well as the aspirations of society for itself and future generations are highly dynamic, the environment cannot be managed according to predefined formulae. Adaptive management, a key concept of ecosystem management, is addressing this uncertainty.

Based on a sound understanding of fundamental ecosystem characteristics and processes, students of this M.Sc. course will learn to assess, manage and monitor forests and other natural resources according to the principles of ecosystem management.

The study programme comprises:

- ▶ an understanding and analysis of the direct (through management) and indirect effects (through environmental changes) of mankind on forests and other terrestrial ecosystems,
- ▶ an in-depth understanding of ecological and environmental processes at various levels: cells, individuals, populations, ecosystems, landscapes and global systems, and
- ▶ the provision of methodological knowledge and competence to design and evaluate management and accompanying research plans for a range of natural resources.

## Career Opportunities

Graduates of the M.Sc. course **Forest Ecology and Management** will be prepared for careers in

- ▶ private and public institutions with a focus on sustainable management of forests and other natural resources,
- ▶ national and international organisations for nature conservation and environmental protection,
- ▶ consulting firms,
- ▶ national and international organisations with a focus on sustainable development and management of natural resources (i.e. FAO, IWF, UNEP, ministries, GTZ, KfW or NGOs),
- ▶ research and teaching institutions in the area of forest ecosystem and natural resource management.

